1	2	3	4
26.	गोवा	900	400
27.	चण्डीगढ़	220	75
28	दादरा व नगर हवेली	400	230
29.	दिल्ली	350	170
30.	दमन व दीव	—	90
31.	लक्षद्वीप	220	210
32.	पांडिचेरी	780	430
	अखिल भारत	1015240	535895

Suspension of Clerk in N.C.C.F.

957. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a clerk in N. C. C. F. was placed under suspension in January, 1987 pending a Departmental Enquiry and Examination of certain vital documents by the Government Laboratory in Shimla; if so, what were the two enquiries about;

(b) whether the charges against the clerk were established as per the findings of the Shimla Laboratory; if so, what was the legal advice thereon and what action has been taken against the clerk as per N. C. C. F.'s Conduct Rules; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government advised N. C. C. F. to look into the matter afresh when the clerk was reinstated though the charges against him were proved in the Departmental Enquiry if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The cleark was placed under suspension pending Departmental enquiry which was for violation of Conduct Rules.

(b) and (c) The NCCF have reported that in the preliminary investigation *prima-facie* mis-conduct appeared to have been done by the clerk. However, former Managing Director revoked the suspension order after giving the clerk a warning and on a clear undertaking given by him for good conduct in future. The report on the Govt. Examiner of questioned documents at Shrimla confirmed that the clerk was the same person who had associated himself with a political party. The NCCF have been advised to take action against the clerk in terms of its Disciplinary and Conduct Rules.

Nitrates Content in Drinking Water

958. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which published in 'The Statesman' dated the 19th September, 1988; under the caption 'Fatal fertilizer risks in poor countries' wherein it has been stated that according to a WHO report 25 per cent to 30 per cent wells near towns and villages in India contain more than 50 per cent mg. of nitrates per litre and in some cases as high as 100 Mg. per litre; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to lessen the nitrate contents and make it safe for drinking purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Water quality monitoring of drinking water supply sources is undertaken by the State Governments. Under the National Drinking Water Mission one of the five Sub Mission deals with Water quality monitoring and assessment. In the Mini Mission Project Areas, water quality analysis are also being conducted by Industrial Toxological Research Institute, Lucknow, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay. Training courses are organised by Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur, NEERI and ITRC for the employees of State Governments and voluntary agencies. Whenever the State Government informs the Central Government about nitrate content beyond the permissible limit of 45 mg per litre in drinking water, technical clearance is given for schemes under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme with alternative safe source of drinking water. Attempts are also being made to develop low cost technology for removal of excess nitrate. Water quality monitoring is a continuous process and appropriate remedial measures are taken for control of excessive chemicals beyond permissible limits in drinking water.

Scholarship to Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes by Government of Madhya Pradesh

959. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 20 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward areas have been provided with scholarships at the end of September in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what were the total scholarships provided to the students uptil now and whether State Government have prepared a number of schemes for the welfare of SC|ST students in the States; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the same and to what extent the SC and ST students will be provided with facilities during 1988-89?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) The information is being collecte from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incentives for Mini Steel Plants

960. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be plesaed to state:

(a) the number of Arc and Induction Furnace Units operating in the country;

(b) whether the steel ingot production through these furnace units has been taken into account for planning of the steel requirements of the country; and

(c) if so, what incentives are being given to the mini steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) There are 163 licensed and commissioned Arc Furnace Units and about 600 Induction Furnace Units operating upto September, 1988.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to enable the units to become technologically efficient and more viable, Government have decided to allow expansion of mini steel plants which undertake modernisation. Government have also reduced the custom duty on imported scrap by 5 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from 4th December, 1986.

Shortage of Tea Stocks in Shahdara Godown of NCCF

961. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Deputy Manager and now Regional Mana-